

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is one of those bills that makes people go crazy because the constitutional amendment that people hide behind to justify the wholesale purchase, distribution, utilization of weapons in this country is, first of all, in my opinion, being misconstrued. Never should have been added to the Constitution. If something like that was to be done, it could have been done legislatively because the militias that existed then are not private citizens such as the people on this floor are talking about or will talk about if the NRA feeds it to them. This is being opposed by the NRA and we know that. There are senators who are carrying water for the NRA, don't have a clear understanding of the constitutional or statutory issues, and if you listen to them talk for just a few minutes, which is difficult to do, you see that they don't even know what they're talking about. They know that they are talking about something but they don't really understand what they're talking about. Now, I keep hearing Senator Hefner, Senator Schellpeper and NRA members and representatives use the term "law-abiding citizen". Most people who get in trouble with guns are law-abiding until they use them. Most of the homicides committed in this country are committed by close friends, family members and acquaintances. All of them, before they used the gun, were law-abiding citizens. So if you took away everybody's gun, you would do away with a majority of the homicides that are committed because they're not committed by criminals, they're committed by people who are law-abiding and become criminals as a result of use of the gun. My name is on this bill and I'm going to vote for it but I'm not going to vote for Senator Chizek's amendment. We have a situation here where it is a power struggle and the pure issue of whether or not the government should declare a position relative to the restriction in the obtaining of guns is going to be lost. Now people are pulling and tugging to see what can be salvaged, the other side to see how much they can cripple the bill or destroy it. And the ones who are pulling the strings are the NRA, the National Rifle Association, which, by the way, is a wounded beast. It is losing its power. In Congress, at the national level, the fear is beginning to leave and that's why that old fellow that was mentioned here earlier, Bush's father, has changed his position. Do you realize that there are more people killed by these guns in America than were killed in the Korean War, World War I, World War II, Desert Storm, you've got Americans killing